



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

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April 18, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walden:

On behalf of the more than 880,000 members of THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR), I wish to convey our support for H.R. 1662, your ESA reform bill requiring the Secretary of Interior to give greater weight to empirical, field-tested or peer-reviewed data. H.R. 1662 would greatly improve the process by which endangered species are protected and recovered.

Considering ESA's significant impact on private property, the concerns of private landowners and the real estate industry are vitally important in our nation's effort to protect and recover endangered species. NAR supports H.R. 1662 because it provides a constructive role for private landowners in the listing, recovery and consultation processes. NAR also supports the bill because it improves the underlying scientific and commercial basis for ESA decision making by establishing objective standards and favoring data that has been field-tested or peer-reviewed.

NAR supports H.R. 1662 as a genuine opportunity to improve the Endangered Species Act and achieve recovery of endangered species through a cooperative effort between the government and its citizens. We look forward to working together with you to enact ESA reform legislation in the 108th Congress.

Sincerely,

Cathy Whatley
President